



## Welcome 2008 and 1Lt. Ed O'Carroll

Let's ring in the New Year with the new Assistant Commander of the Fair Oaks District Police Station, First Lieutenant Ed O'Carroll! We are lucky to have such a proactive and involved community leader serving our District's needs. He stays informed and is committed to problem solving.



1st Lt. O'Carroll has been committed to the Fairfax County Police Department since 1989. He worked patrol at West Springfield and Franconia District Stations, and has served as a Crime Prevention Officer. He started his supervisory career at Franconia and was also assigned to the Sully District Station. His command assignments have included the Field Support Division within the Technical Services Bureau. But 1st Lt. O'Carroll is NOT all business.

He is a dedicated father and husband who believes in balance in life. When he is not working or spending time with his family, he often takes time for his hobbies. He travels and likes to work on projects at home; often including his family in both.

His goals are 'to meet the needs of my community and the outstanding staff here at the Fair Oaks District Station.' He serves as President of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association, Board Member of the Fairfax County Citizen's Police Academy Alumni and is the current Chair of the Virginia Police and Private Security Alliance. Come and meet him in person or e-mail him with an introduction and a warm welcome!"

### Inside this issue:

Welcome 2008 and 1st Lt. Ed O'Carroll	Page 1
Avoid Being A Scam Victim!	Page 2
Neighborhood Watch News	Page 3
CAC	Page 3
A BIG Thank You to Our APOs	Page 3
Don't Fall Prey to Urban Legends	Page 4
Keep Your Children Safe in the Snow!	Page 5
Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?	Page 5
A Bitter-Sweet End to 2007...	Page 6

### Events of Interest

*Neighborhood Watch Training Day,  
January 10*

*Lee Jackson Memorial Day, January 21*

*Neighborhood Watch/Citizen's Advisory  
Council Meeting, January 29*



# Avoid Being A Scam Victim!



Christmas, New Years and tax time are common times of the year where scams are great opportunities for predators. They are aware that you may be in a giving mood, that you are ready to commit to resolutions to include “being a better person” and that you may be getting a tax return in the near future. Here are a few tips to reduce your chances of being a victim.

- The basic rule of thumb is: **“when in doubt, check it out.”** Ask a lot of questions and get information in writing if you’re not sure about a charity. If you get indirect or unsatisfying answers to your inquiries about the charity, its fundraising activities, and the tax deductibility of donations, think about taking your generosity elsewhere.
- Make sure you get the actual name, address, and phone number of the charity before giving. Then check it out by going to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), which has an updated list of legitimate charities and non-profit groups. You can call the IRS toll-free at (877) 829-5500. Another useful website is [www.give.org](http://www.give.org), part of the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance.
- Don’t ever, ever disseminate personal or financial information to anyone who has contacted you out of the blue. That’s just leaving yourself wide open to the theft of your money and your identity.
- Don’t be intimidated into giving. You have the right to say no. If you’re really unsure who you’re talking with, just tell them you want to do some checking first and ask for a way to contact them later if you decide to give. Legitimate organizations will understand your skepticism and will be understanding if you check them out first or if you wish to think about your donation.
- Just because you have heard of an organization, don’t let your guard down. Sometimes false organizations will change the real organization’s name by a word that you wouldn’t recognize.

This information is for your protection; please share it with family, friends and co-workers. Some of this information was gathered from the FBI website.

**If you have fallen prey to a money scam**, report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission toll-free at (877) FTC-HELP. Also report fake charity to the Virginia attorney general for the state where the charity is located.

## **Bonus Information: Take Control of Your Phone!**

You have the option of putting your phone on the national Do Not Call (DNC) registry. It’s easy and it’s free. Just call 888-382-1222, TTY 866-290-4326 from the phone number you want to register (including cell phones) or go to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Nonprofit groups, charities, political organizations and survey companies are not covered by the DNC registry, but they may agree to remove your number from their calling list if you ask.





## Neighborhood Watch News

Don't forget our first of four Neighborhood Watch training sessions in 2008. The January 10th training will be held in the roll call room at the Fair Oaks District Station at 7:00 p.m.. This is a great opportunity for the existing volunteers to take a refresher course as well as to train new comers. If there is a large group at any given time we may change the venue to the Sully District Station conference room. **Do not forget to R.S.V.P. to MPO Sophia Grinnan via e-mail.** The other training dates are March 13, June 12 and October 16.

It will be up to each community to provide participants. Only if you have participants should you contact MPO Grinnan via e-mail at [sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Lack of participation will result in a cancellation. If the session is canceled, you will be notified by an automated response when you e-mail me. For example: You e-mail me and ask me if the training will still be presented. After you send the e-mail you will get an automated reply indicating whether it was canceled or not.

Our goal in 2008 is to expand the number of Neighborhood Watches and contribution in them. **The next CAC/Neighborhood Watch meeting is Tuesday, January 29th.**



## CAC NEWS



The next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting will be held on January 29 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fair Oaks District Station in the roll call room. Project 54 will be the department feature that day. Project 54 is a voice-activated police cruiser that will bring us way into the 21st century. At the meeting we will introduce our newest member of the Crime Prevention team replacing PFC. Liz Barrington who has been transferred to another unit. We look forward to seeing you there!

## A BIG Thank You to Our Auxiliary Police Officers!

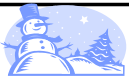
Our Auxiliary Officers are invaluable members of the Fairfax County Police Department. They assist police officers in their daily chores which frees them up to be more effective on the street. They also consistently volunteer to represent the Police Department with distinction at many community-related functions and provide traffic control for many events such as the Fairfax Fair and many bike races. They receive no compensation for the time they give to officers and their community. While we are honored to have a few retirees, the majority have careers that range from teaching to banking and police-related work for other jurisdictions. The Fair Oaks District Station held an appreciation dinner on their behalf on November 29 at the Police Association hall to honor them for all they do and give.

We engaged in great non work-related conversation and got to know each other on a more personal level. Often officers don't get that "personal time" because they are so task oriented! We also enjoyed a great meal and shared some gifts of appreciation that the APOs could utilize during their workday. We thank them and are thankful for them! We look forward to working together in 2008!

# Don't Fall Prey to Urban Legends



Do you receive e-mails from friends that look authentic but end by urging you to pass the e-mail on to more people? Maybe it talks about new “gang initiations”, sneakers hanging over a power line or even “Amber Alerts”. Many times these e-mails are nothing more than urban legends that circulate all over the Web. You can verify the legitimacy of these e-mails by visiting [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com). This Web site covers a variety of urban legends. Check it out and read some of the legends out there.



## Keep Your Children Safe in the Snow!



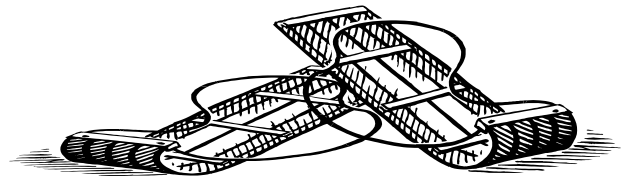
### Ice Skating

- Allow children to skate only on approved surfaces with signs posted by local police or recreation departments, or call your local police department to find out which areas have been approved.
- Advise your child to: skate in the same direction as the crowd; avoid darting across the ice; never skate alone; not chew gum or eat candy while skating.
- Consider having your child wear a helmet while ice skating.



### Sledding

- Keep sledders away from motor vehicles.
- Children should be supervised while sledding.
- Keep young children separated from older children.
- Sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down head-first, may prevent head injuries.
- Consider having your child wear a helmet while sledding.
- Use sleds that steer, not snow disks or inner tubes.
- Sleds should be structurally sound and free of sharp edges and splinters, and the steering mechanism should be well lubricated.
- Sled slopes should be free of obstructions like trees or fences, be covered in snow not ice, not be too steep (slope of less than 30°), and end with a flat runoff.
- Avoid sledding in crowded areas.





## Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



### **§ 46.2-829. Approach of law-enforcement or fire-fighting vehicles, rescue vehicles, or ambulances; violation as failure to yield right-of-way.**

Upon the approach of any emergency vehicle as defined in § 46.2-920 giving audible signal by siren, exhaust whistle, or air horn designed to give automatically intermittent signals, and displaying a flashing, blinking, or alternating emergency light or lights as provided in §§ 46.2-1022 through 46.2-1024, the driver of every other vehicle shall, as quickly as traffic and other highway conditions permit, drive to the nearest edge of the roadway, clear of any intersection of highways, and stop and remain there, unless otherwise directed by a law-enforcement officer, until the emergency vehicle has passed. This provision shall not relieve the driver of any such vehicle to which the right-of-way is to be yielded of the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the highway, nor shall it protect the driver of any such vehicle from the consequences of an arbitrary exercise of such right-of-way.

Violation of this section shall constitute failure to yield the right-of-way; however, any violation of this section that involves overtaking or passing a moving emergency vehicle giving an audible signal and displaying activated warning lights as provided for in this section shall constitute reckless driving, punishable as provided in § 46.2-868.

### **§ 46.2-828. Right-of-way for funeral processions under police or sheriff's escort; improper joining of, passing through, or interfering with processions prohibited; use of high beam headlights and hazard lights by vehicles traveling in funeral processions.**

Funeral processions traveling under police or sheriff's escort shall have the right-of-way in any highway through which they may pass. Localities may, by ordinance, provide for such escort service and provide for the imposition of reasonable fees to defray the cost of such service.

The sheriff in any locality not having a separate police department may provide traffic control for funeral processions when equipment and personnel are not otherwise engaged in law-enforcement activities.

Vehicles traveling as part of any funeral procession, whether escorted or unescorted, may display high beam headlights and flash all four turn signals or hazard lights to identify themselves as part of the procession.

No vehicle that is not properly part of a funeral procession shall join, pass through, or interfere with the passage of any funeral procession under escort as provided in this section.

#### **§ 46.2-828.1. Impeding or disrupting certain funeral processions; penalty.**

A. It shall be unlawful for the operator of any motor vehicle intentionally to impede or disrupt a funeral procession. Any person convicted of violating this subsection shall be guilty of a traffic infraction and shall, in addition to a penalty assessed pursuant to § 46.2-113, be assessed four driver demerit points.

B. This section shall apply only to funeral processions that are either (i) travelling under police or sheriff's escort as provided in § 46.2-828 or (ii) escorted or led by vehicles displaying warning lights as provided in § 46.2-1025.





**Fair Oaks District Station**  
 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy  
 Fairfax, Virginia 22033  
 Main Phone 703-591-0966  
 Fax 703-591-1032

**Commander, Captain Amy Lubas**  
*E-mail: [amy.lubas@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:amy.lubas@fairfaxcounty.gov)*

**Asst. Commander,**  
**1 Lieutenant Ed O'Carroll**  
*E-mail:*  
*[Edward.O'Carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Edward.O'Carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov)*

**Crime Prevention Unit,**  
*E-mail: [faocpo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:faocpo@fairfaxcounty.gov)*

#### **Phone Numbers**

**Fairfax County Crime Solvers:**  
 1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

**Fairfax County Police**  
 Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

**Citizen Reporting System**  
*(for reports not requiring officer response)*

*703-691-2131 or online reporting:*  
*[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) to public safety, police department.*



A Fairfax County, Va., publication

## **A Bitter-Sweet End to 2007...**

Most of our community members have come to know and respect PFC Liz Barrington, Crime Prevention Officer for the Fair Oaks District. She has committed her time and hard work to those values that she holds in high esteem such as teaching personal safety, Neighborhood Watch, and community unity. Liz has been through a few partners but has worked solo most of her time in this position. She has graciously hosted a number of station open houses, she has been a guest exhibitor at a few and has given countless weekends of her personal family time to ensure community outreach and partnerships stay strong. But, it has come time for Liz to move on to new challenges within the department.



PFC Liz Barrington has been reassigned to our Personnel Division as a background investigator for those wishing to pursue a career in law enforcement. She will grill them and drill them and then do the same to an applicants' friends, family, and coworkers to ensure the most capable persons are chosen to carry on the missions of the police department. The mission of course is to fight crime and build close relationships with the community.

The Fair Oaks District is proud to introduce our newest member of the Crime Prevention family, PFC Wayne Twombly. Wayne has been an officer for over 13 years. He has served as a school resource officer for most of the time which shows a commitment to community. He has always volunteered to get involved in the hopes of making a difference in the quality of life for young people. Even though he has been assigned to day work as a patrol officer for the past three years, he still talks to teens about driving responsibilities and peer pressure before they are issued the final portion of their driver's licenses. He has been assisting with Crime Prevention Unit for a past couple of years so his transfer should be smooth and relatively effortless.



We will certainly miss PFC Liz Barrington but she has left us in worthwhile company with PFC Wayne Twombly. Goodbye Liz and welcome Wayne!